

What is claimed is:

1. A pocket telephone including an operation surface on which function keys and character input keys arrayed in three columns by four rows are provided, said character input keys comprising:

three columns of keys, one of which consisting of four character input keys to which four out of five alphabet letters corresponding to the vowels in Japanese are assigned to be used to enter Japanese characters in Romaji input mode, the remaining one of the five alphabet letters being assigned to a function key just above the top character input key in the same column, wherein the keys of the five alphabet letters are arranged in the order of the vowels according to the Japanese syllabary.

2. A pocket telephone arranged such that a standby screen is displayed when its power is turned on and a predetermined screen is opened by actuating a function key on the operation surface, wherein:

the predetermined screen is superposed on the standby screen so that the standby screen will be visible through the predetermined screen.

3. The pocket telephone as recited in claim 2, wherein:

said predetermined screen is a main menu screen where a plurality of icons are shown, arranged in an

array, corresponding to items or groups of items from which to choose, said icons being rearranged such that:

when one of the icons is chosen and a focus is positioned on it, it is shown enlarged and the remaining icons other than the focal icon shift, thus providing space for widening the area where the focal icon is shown.

4. The pocket telephone as recited in claim 2, wherein:

said predetermined screen is a main menu screen where a plurality of icons are shown, arranged in an array, corresponding to items or groups of items from which to choose, said icons being rearranged such that:

when one of the icons is chosen and the focus is positioned on it, it is shown enlarged and the remaining icons other than the focal icon shift with their size being downscaled, thus providing space for widening the area where the focal icon is shown.

5. The pocket telephone as recited in claim 3, wherein:

a selecting function screen is opened by choosing one of the icons of the items or groups of items from which to choose displayed on said main menu screen, and on the selecting function screen, the chosen icon as well as particular items under the thus chosen item are displayed.

6. The pocket telephone as recited in claim 4,  
wherein:

5 a selecting function screen is opened by choosing  
one of the icons of the items or groups of items from  
which to choose displayed on said main menu screen, and  
on the selecting function screen, the chosen icon as  
well as particular items under the thus chosen item are  
displayed.

10 7. The pocket telephone as recited in claim 2,  
wherein:

15 said predetermined screen is an address book  
screen where a plurality of name entries of persons or  
parties whom the user of said pocket telephone has  
contacted or may contact are displayed in a list with  
the focus positioning on one of the entries, for the  
focal entry, its detailed information about the address  
book as well as the name of the person or party being  
20 displayed.

8. The pocket telephone as recited in claim 2,  
wherein:

25 said predetermined screen is a record screen  
where a plurality of name entries of persons or parties  
whom the user of said pocket telephone has contacted  
are displayed in a list, an icon to indicate the type  
of contact means taken at the last contact being

attached to each name entry and the focus positioned on one of the entries, for the focal entry, its record information such as last contact date/time, the number of times of contacts, etc. as well as the name of the person or party being displayed.

9. The pocket telephone as recited in claim 2, wherein:

said predetermined screen is a create mail screen comprising a plurality of input fields, where a help icon is assigned to each of the input fields so that the user of said pocket telephone can obtain help information for each input field.

10. The pocket telephone as recited in claim 9, wherein:

for the persons or parties whom the user of said pocket telephone has contacted or may contact, functional information about their pocket telephone model or other communications equipment, such as the maximum number of characters displayable, displayable file formats, etc. is stored in memory so that the user can refer to the functional information when entering mail text at said create main screen.

11. The pocket telephone as recited in claim 9, wherein:

when said create new mail screen is displayed, by

actuating a specific key on said operation surface and choosing from a submenu, a letter type select screen is opened where a plurality of icons of letter type options are laid out, on one of which the focus is always positioned.

12. The pocket telephone as recited in claim 10, wherein:

when said create new mail screen is displayed, by actuating a predetermined key on said operation surface and choosing from a submenu, a letter type select screen is opened where a plurality of icons of letter type options are laid out, on one of which the focus is always positioned.

13. The pocket telephone as recited in claim 2, wherein:

said predetermined screen is a main menu screen where a plurality of icons are shown, arranged in a single row, corresponding to items or groups of items from which to choose, with one of the plurality of icons being selected by default and the focus being positioned on it, wherein the user of said pocket telephone can choose any desired icon by shifting the focus; and

by choosing to fix the focal icon, a selecting function screen is opened where particular items under the item of the chosen icon are displayed in a list

